



The Council of State Governments
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2010 Innovations Awards Application

Deadline: March 1, 2010

ID # (assigned by CSG): **10-E-04ME**

Please provide the following information, adding space as necessary:

State: Maine

Assign Program Category (applicant): Government Operations and Technology (Use list at end of application)

1. Program Name: Maine.gov DataShare
2. Administering Agency: Maine Information Network
3. Contact Person: Kelly Hokkanen, General Manager
4. Address: 45 Commerce Drive, Suit 10, Augusta, ME 04330
5. Phone: (207) 621-2600 x28
6. Fax: (207) 621-9950
7. E-mail Address: Kelly@informe.org
8. Web site Address: <http://www.maine.gov/data>
9. Please provide a two-sentence description of the program.

Maine.gov DataShare is a free, public online repository of Maine state and municipal government data. It allows citizens to locate data more easily with centralized search tools, to view meta-data, and to download data files for their own research, analysis, or application development.

10. How long has this program been operational (month and year)? Note: the program must be between 9 months and 5 years old on March 1, 2010 to be considered.

The service launched in June 2009.

11. Why was the program created? What problem[s] or issue[s] was it designed to address?

Finding and gaining access to state wide public information can be challenging. This is especially true for those individuals seeking information who are not familiar with the structure of state government and where the information might be located. The primary purpose of Maine.gov DataShare is to make public government data more available, easy to find, and easy to use. Maine.gov DataShare boasts cutting-edge features that assist the public in locating and using data, while ensuring privacy and security.

12. What were the program's start-up costs? (Provide details about specific purchases for this program, staffing needs and other financial expenditures, as well as existing materials, technology and staff already in place.)

The service was developed by InforME, the state's e-government portal, at no cost to the state or taxpayers. Service development was completed in two months, with an approximate value of \$20,000.

13. What are the program's annual operational costs?

Ongoing operation of the service is also provided at no cost to the state, with an approximate value of \$7,000.

14. How is the program funded?

The Maine.gov DataShare was developed by InforME, the state's e-government portal, at no cost to the state or taxpayers.

InforME was created by Maine state legislation to be the Internet gateway to government services and information under a self-funded, no appropriations model.

15. Did this program require the passage of legislation, executive order or regulations? If YES, please indicate the citation number.

No. This program did not require the passage of legislation, executive order or regulations.

16. What equipment, technology and software are used to operate and administer this program?

The DataShare was developed using Perl with a MySQL 5.0 database. Maine.gov DataShare provides agencies a standardized platform and format through which to share their public data with anyone. This raw agency data will be downloaded by the public at no charge and be incorporated into helpful mashups that can be used freely for anyone to enjoy. The possibilities are endless when information and raw data is available for no charge.

Agencies benefit because it provides a free method for delivering public data, and because it provides access to other agencies' data and users' mashups, which may be helpful in analysis and policy-making. The public benefits from the ease of use of the one-stop service, and the ability to download raw datasets free of charge. Users do not need to have GIS tools, fancy software, or technical training in order to benefit from this service

17. To the best of your knowledge, did this program originate in your state? If YES, please indicate the innovator's name, present address, telephone number and e-mail address.

We don't believe that this service initiated in Maine, however we were among the first government entities to provide a centralized online open data service.

18. Are you aware of similar programs in other states? If YES, which ones and how does this program differ?

No, the current e-government trends of transparency and user participation (Web 2.0) meet in perfect harmony in Maine.gov DataShare.

The State of Maine implemented Maine.gov DataShare to leverage Internet technology and its ability to share public information and facilitate access to data. Agency data is no longer confined to filing cabinets (or hard drives and private networks) spread across the state. The public is demanding greater access to government information and agencies are responding. However, although much agency data has made its way online, it was still buried in separate agency websites and/or was not published in readily usable "raw" formats. Maine.gov DataShare creates a central location for users to find and download datasets.

19. Has the program been fully implemented? If NO, what actions remain to be taken?

Yes, this program has been fully implemented. Maine.gov DataShare is an evolving and growing tool. We will be making enhancements to the DataShare in the coming year to better equip both the public and state agencies in posting and accessing state government data.

20. Briefly evaluate (pro and con) the program's effectiveness in addressing the defined problem[s] or issue[s]. Provide tangible examples.

- Maine.gov DataShare has robust yet flexible search functionality and standard meta-data.

Users no longer have to search through agency websites to locate data. Maine.gov DataShare provides a centralized repository that is much more user-friendly. Users are able to locate data within Maine.gov DataShare by agency, category, keywords, or by browsing through the datasets. As more agencies participate in DataShare the amount of data offered will be quite large. Moreover, agency participants and end users must be able to locate their targeted data quickly. Thus, the search functionality is robust and offers the flexibility to search in various ways.

For each dataset, standard meta-data are provided, including source agency, description, data fields, contact information, and upload date. Within the system, datasets are also tagged with categories and keywords. This meta-data is important for users to be able to understand and make use of the datasets.

- Maine.gov DataShare provides examples of how the data can be used, and shares user innovation with all site visitors.

Maine.gov DataShare users will encompass a great diversity of technical expertise, backgrounds, and interests. Maine.gov DataShare automatically provides Google map examples for KML data files, and additional visualizations of many datasets such as graphs and charts. In addition, the site encourages users to submit information about their web applications, which will be included in a gallery of mashup examples on the site. The visualizations and examples will make the data more useful to non-technical users, and will inspire those who wish to try their hand at application development.

- Maine.gov DataShare is accessible.

The State of Maine has set a high standard for web accessibility. All websites and online applications must meet the state's stringent accessibility policy. Maine.gov DataShare is fully compliant with the state's Web Accessibility Policy and federal standards for accessibility, allowing disabled individuals to search, learn about, and download datasets with ease.

- Maine.gov DataShare protects privacy and security.

Maine.gov DataShare provides a clear Data Use Policy and Data Custodian Policy. Agencies are instructed to upload only data that is public by law, and to take reasonable measures to protect privacy. Personally identifiable information will not be included in Maine.gov DataShare.

Maine.gov DataShare does not collect any sensitive information from site users. Users may choose to voluntarily submit feedback or mashup examples. Data is available for download without any information about the user. The service was subjected to a stringent security audit to ensure that the application does not contain any known security vulnerabilities. InforME maintains CyberTrust certification through strict security practices and audits.

21. How has the program grown and/or changed since its inception?

Maine.gov DataShare is open to all government agencies within the State of Maine, including municipalities. The success of DataShare is dependent largely on growing participation by agencies. The more agencies that participate, the more data will be available for the public. Currently, there are several agencies are participating in DataShare and many more have expressed interest in providing data. InforME will work with the state and with municipal associations to create awareness of the service and to assist agencies in getting started. The state CIO is fully supportive of this initiative and will be assisting in encouraging agency participation.

22. What limitations or obstacles might other states expect to encounter if they attempt to adopt this program?

The Maine.gov DataShare is just one testimony of Maine's willingness to express the state's transparency initiatives. The model of the DataShare was built based upon the federal open data site Data.gov. With the ever-increasing focus on transparency in government, states through out the nation will want to adopt methods that allow their citizens to have easy access to public information. Maine has taken the initiative in this regard and has created such a tool resting on Maine's technical leadership. The state's CIO is at the forefront of this application and in encouraging all within Maine state government to take advantage of the DataShare offerings. The inherent nature of the application presents exciting possibilities for future growth and innovation. Data is truly powerful, and Maine.gov DataShare will both inform and inspire creativity.

CSG reserves the right to use or publish in other CSG products the information provided in this application. If your agency objects to this policy, please advise us in a separate attachment.



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2010 Innovations Awards Application Program Categories and Subcategories

Use these as guidelines to determine the appropriate Program Category for your state's submission and list that program category on page one of this application. Choose only one.

Infrastructure and Economic Development

- Business/Commerce
- Economic Development
- Transportation

Government Operations and Technology

- Administration
- Elections
- Information Systems
- Public Information
- Revenue
- Telecommunications

Health & Human Services

- Aging
- Children & Families
- Health Services
- Housing
- Human Services

Human Resources/Education

- Education
- Labor
- Management
- Personnel
- Training and Development
- Workforce Development

Natural Resources

- Agriculture
- Energy
- Environment
- Environmental Protection
- Natural Resources
- Parks & Recreation
- Water Resources

Public Safety/Corrections

- Corrections
- Courts
- Criminal Justice
- Drugs
- Emergency Management
- Public Safety

Save in .doc or rtf. Return completed application electronically to innovations@csg.org or mail to:

CSG Innovations Awards 2010
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This application is also available at www.csg.org.